

## WEAKNESS

STRONGER

Week of June 16, 2019

Stronger • 2 Corinthians 11-12:13 • Message 8

**WEAKNESS .. 2 CORINTHIANS 11-12:13 (P. 545)**

Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-12. What does Paul want for the Corinthians?

Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. Also take note of verses 4 and 6. How does Paul talk about the "super apostles"? Why is he so harsh?

Through the rest of this section, Paul tries to prove himself as a more worthy leader than the "super apostles" but he does so by boasting of his weaknesses. We'll look at just a few of his boasts.

Read 2 Corinthians 11:21-30. This is Paul's most famous list of his own personal hardships and qualifications. As a modern day Christian, what do you think of this list? How does this list affect your opinion of Paul?

Consider this list from the perspective of the people living in Roman cosmopolitan Corinth who valued philosophy, wisdom, business, trade, etc. If you were a resident of Corinth, what would you have thought of this list?

*On the one hand, Paul's list is a series of triumphs of endurance. On the other hand, Paul's list is a series of practical failures. To the Corinthians, they surely would have been examples of his "weakness."*

Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. What do you think of Paul's vision and the fact that he speaks of his experience in the third person?

How does his vision story affect your opinion of Paul?

What do you think of the "thorn" Paul describes and the fact that God won't take it away from him?

How does his thorn story affect your opinion of Paul?

Finally, read 2 Corinthians 12:11. At the end of this section, Paul again affirms that he is better than the "super apostles" but he also calls himself nothing. What do you think of that?

**TAKE IT HOME**

There are two big lessons to take from this passage:

- The best leader is a "nothing" leader; pointing to Jesus, getting out of the way.
- My weakness reveals God's strength.

How do those lessons apply to your life these days?

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